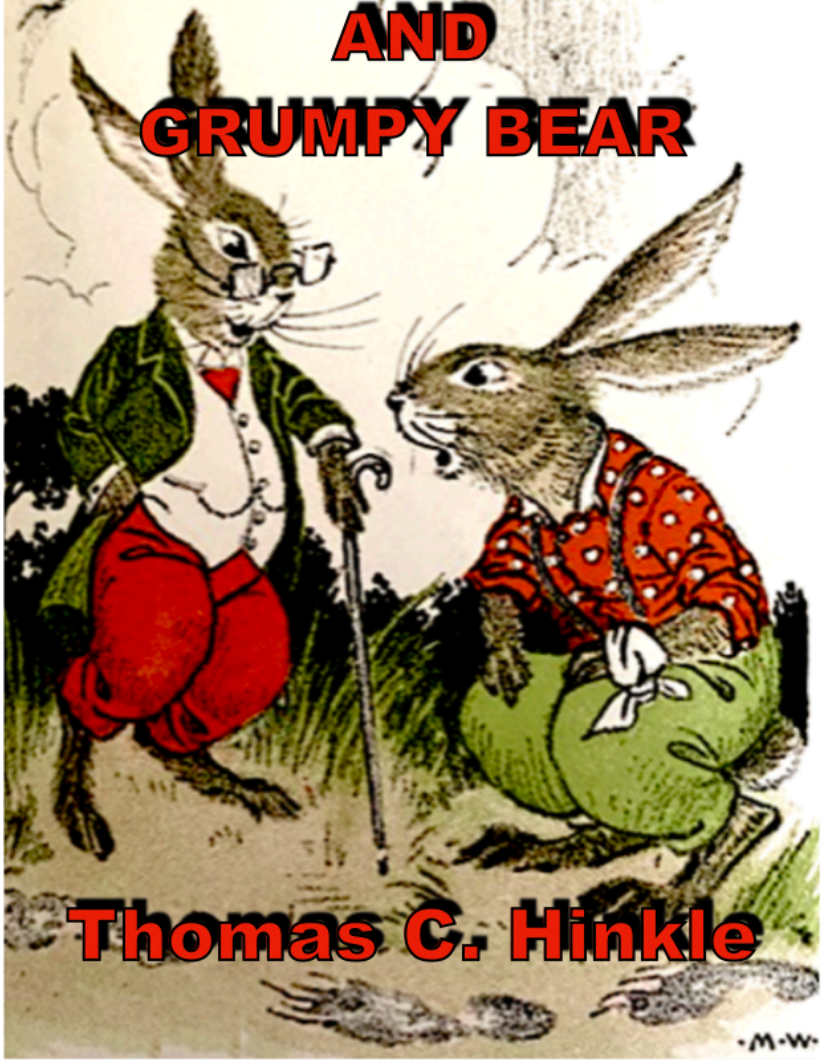
Gunston Classics

DOCTOR RABBIT AND GRUMPY BEAR



Thomas C. Hinkle

Gunston & The Book Bunnies

The Gunston Trust

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DOCTOR RABBIT AND GRUMPY BEAR

Thomas C. Hinkle
Milo Winter - Illustrator

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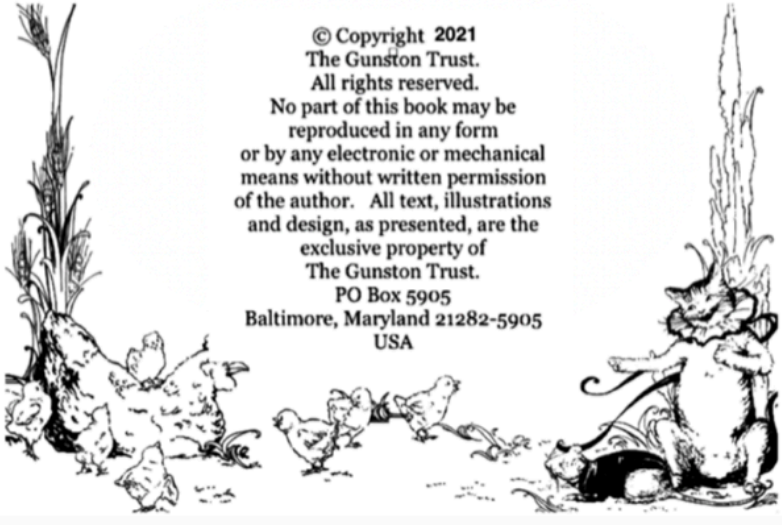

Introduction

Welcome to the Great Green Woods and meet all the wonderful animals that live there. Enjoy all the fun and adventures for young readers and listeners. Charming tales of neighbor helping neighbor that build pleasant and innocent memories of childhood and delightful bedtime dreams.

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Gunston & The Book Bunnies

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DOCTOR RABBIT AND GRUMPY BEAR

Thomas C. Hinkle
Milo Winter - illustrator

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The Green Wood Series

"It was a bear," said Doctor Rabbit.

DOCTOR RABBIT AND GRUMPY BEAR

1
Jack Rabbit Sees Something Interesting

My! That hurts!" It was Jack Rabbit speaking. He had hurt his foot, and Doctor Rabbit was putting a bandage on it.

'What's the trouble, Friend Jack?" Doctor Rabbit inquired.

"That bandage is too tight," replied Jack Rabbit.

"Oh," said the doctor, "Then I'll loosen it up a bit. There now. How's that?"

It feels just right now," said Jack

Rabbit. "May I put my foot on the ground?"

"Oh yes," Doctor Rabbit said, putting away the bandages and the medicine he had been using on Jack Rabbit's foot. "You can walk now perfectly well, and run, too, if you have to, and tomorrow your foot will be well, I'm sure. But you'd better keep it bandages for a few days."

"And now that I've got you all fixed up," Doctor Rabbit continued, "tell me all about your adventure up Murmuring Brook this morning. Do you really think you saw as large an animal as you said you did?"

Jack Rabbit's eyes opened wide at the very thought of what he had seen just a little while before.

"Why, Doctor Rabbit," Jack Rabbit exclaimed, "I know I saw that big animal.

I know I did, just as well as I know I'm alive, and just as well as I know my foot is hurt. Yes, sir! I saw the most terrible looking creature this morning that I ever looked at. You see, it was this way," Jack Rabbit continued. "I set out to find a nice patch of sweet clover, for I'm getting a little tired of eating nothing but grass. So I started up Murmuring Brook pretty early. In fact it was just daylight.

"Well, after I'd gone quite a little distance up the brook I found just what I wanted. It was the nicest patch of sweet clover you ever saw. I was so hungry I started right in to eat all I could, saying to myself that later I would bring my family and all my friends up that way and let them enjoy it too. And then, right close by in some bushes I heard a very strange noise. It sounded like this, "Ugh! woof! Ugh woof! I was pretty badly scared,

and I crept quickly into some dead grass near by and waited. For a time I couln't see anything, but I could hear someone moving around in the bushes where I had heard that queer grunting sound. Then I saw who it was, and he certainly was a stranger to me. And how terrible and fierce he did look! He had two rather small ears that stood straight up, and his nose and had looked a little like a dog's but he wasn't a dog, I'm sure. His color was brown, and he had long hair and a short tail. He was several times bigger than Ki-yi Coyote.

2
GOING UP
TO THE SWEET CLOVER FIELD

Now, when Jack Rabbit talked about that big animal he had seen in the sweet clover patch beside Murmuring Brook, Doctor Rabbit had his supicions right away as to who the animal was. You see, Doctor Rabbit had once lived in another wood far up Deep River, and he had seen many kinds of animals there. Indeed, it was just because there were so many fierce animals in those woods that Doctor Rabbit had left and come into the Big Green Woods to live.

Doctor Rabbit listened very closely to what Jack Rabbit said, and then asked,

"Do you think, Friend Jack, that big animal, whoever he was, left any tracks that I could see if we went up that way?"

"Why yes--yes, I feel certain about it," Jack Rabbit hesitated. "Yes," he said, "I remember there were a lot of gopher mounds in the clover patch, and that big animal came right through them; so he must have left some tracts.

All right, Jack," Doctor Rabbit said. "I don't like to go, but I think we'd better go up to that clover patch right away and see who this new enemy is. I may as well tell you I have my suspicions.

Now, you remember how Jack Rabbit hesitated when he said he thought there were some tracks in the clover patch. The reason was that Jack Rabbit guessed what Doctor Rabbit would do, and he was afraid to go back there. Doctor Rabbit knew this, too, so he said, "You see, Friend Jack, we certainly must find out as quickly as possible who that big animal is. When someone bigger than we are comes into our woods he's generally dangerous for us, and if we know about him it is much safer. Come on, Jack Rabbit, let's go at once."

Then when Jack Rabbit looked at his own big, long legs and at Doctor Rabbit's rather short ones, he was really ashamed of himself. His foot did not hurt in the least now, so he said, "Of course, we ought to

find out about that big old Mr. Somebody, and I'll take you right to the gopher mounds where I'm sure those tracks are."

Jack Rabbot started off through the Big Green Woods, leading the way to the sweet clover field. Somehow, as they got farther and farther along, he did not feel so much afraid. He knew that Doctor Rabbit was somewhat afraid, but he knew also that Doctor Rabbit did a good many things even is he was a little afraid. This habit of making himself do things he did not want to do was just what gave Doctor Rabbit so much courage.

So, as they ran along, Jack Rabbit thought to himself, "If Doctor Rabbit is not much afraid, why should I be? He's only a cottontail rabbit and can't run more than

half as fast or as far as I can. No, I'm not afraid so long as Doctor Rabbit is not afraid, and I believe he more than half knows who that big animal is, anyway. Perhaps it's a big Mr. Somebody that can't run as fast as we can."

Just as they were passing a dense thicket they both stopped so quickly and sat so still that I doubt if you could have seen them if you had looked right at them. They had heard something moving in the bushes. The noise continued for a short time, and then Yappy, Farmer Roe's fox hound, came out, sniffing along the ground. Doctor Rabbit and Jack Rabbit knew exactly what to do as long as Yappy did not get to near. They sat perfectly still. Yappy smelld the ground around the thicket two or three times.

He was probably hunting a trail, but he did not happen to look up; so, although once or twice he came pretty close to Doctor Rabbit and Jack Rabbit, he never saw them. These two clever friends had fooled Yappy this way a great many times.

3
SOME VERY LARGE TRACKS

The tracks that Doctor Rabbit and Jack Rabbit saw looked a great deal like the tracks of a barefooted man.

Doctor Rabbit examined the tracks very closely for a moment, then he looked up at Jack Rabbit, it is just as I suspected. I know now exactly who that big animal is--indeed I do!"

"Who?" Jack Rabbit asked with his mouth and eyes wide open.

"It was a bear," said Doctor Rabbit. "And not only that, but it was old Grumpy Bear, that used to live in the other woods, far up Deep River. I can tell him by his

crooked toes, for I've seen his tracks many a time and run away from them."

"My goodness! cried Jack Rabbit, "I was in hopes it would only be a big pig, or some onelike that. I was in hopes, too, that a bear would never come into the Big Green Woods. How do you suppose he got here?"

"Easy enough," answered Doctor Rabbit. "He just followed along the woods.

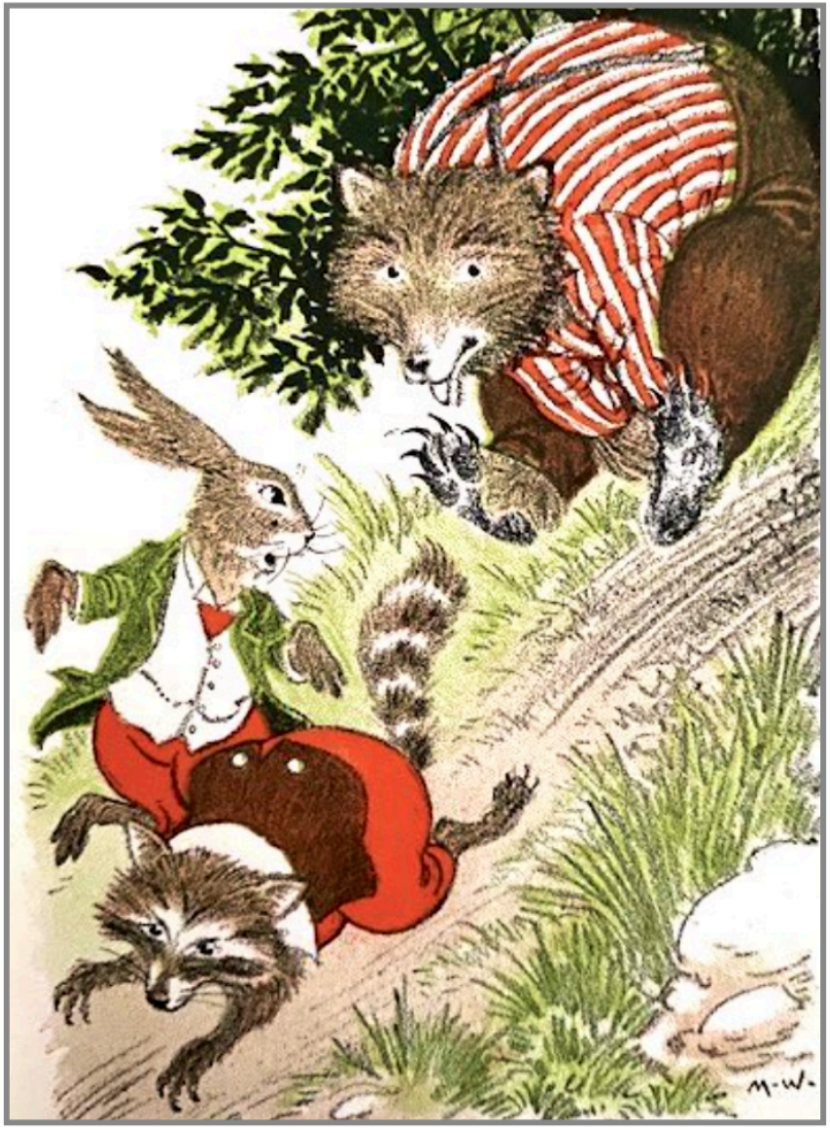
My!" Doctor Rabbit exclaimed. "I hope Grumpy Bear does not expect to stay here!

"I should say not!" Jack Rabbit said a little nervously. "Old Grumpy is so big and fierce looking. I believe we had better be going, Doctor Rabbit. Let's go right away."

"Indeed we had better," said Doctor Rabbit as they started away. "We had better hurry right back and tell our friends to watch out for old Grumpy."

Ray Coon was the first one that Doctor Rabbit saw on his way back from the clover patch. Jack Rabbit had left him and hurried on home.

While Doctor Rabbit was talking to Ray Coon and telling him about old Grumpy Bear, Grumpy Bear himself came out of a nearby thicket. Doctor Rabbit and Ray Coon saw old Grumpy Bear just as old Grumpy saw them. Well sir, they were all certainly surprised. Grumpy Bear naturally thought the here was a fine meal for him, and he made a big rush for Doctor Rabbit and Ray Coon, thinking he would surely get one or both of them. Ray Coon darted for his back door and called loudly for Doctor Rabbit to follow. In a jiffy they were both inside with the door shut and locked. Grumpy Bear was so sure of catching Doctor Rabbit and Ray



He made a big rush for Doctor Rabbit and Ray Coon

Coon that he could not stop soon enough, so he fell ove a stump in the yard and tumbled right into a thorn bush.

"Ouch! hiyi! ouch!" he cried, as the thorns stuck into him. Then he jumped up and started for Ray Coon's back door, thinking he would break it in. But in his haste he stumbled over a pile of wood in the yard, and fell sidewise, butting his head square against a tree. Then Mr. Bear did roar, and he ran against Ray Coon's door with all his might. But the door was of heavy oak and was fastened with a big oak bar; so he he could never have broken it in if he had tried for a week.

Ray Coon and Doctor Rabbit opened an upstairs window and looked down at Grumpy Bear.

"Well, how do you do, Neighbor Bear!" Doctor Rabbit called down. "It's a very fine morning! Won't you come in?"

Well, sir, that made old Grumpy Bear terribly angry, and he pounded the door so hard that Doctor Rabbit and Ray Coon actually became a little afraid.

Doctor Rabbit whispered. "My goodness, Mr. Coon! Of course he can't break in the door, but I'll be mighty glad when he stops trying."

"I will, too," Ray Coon whispered; and they both kept very still. Presently Grumpy Bear gave it up and wandered off into the woods.

Doctor Rabbit hurried on toward home. Well, when he got right close to his big tree what do you suppose he saw? Why, he saw Grumpy Bear standing there knocking on his door! Doctor Rabbit hid behind a log and

a log and watched. Grumpy Bear knocked several times, and then called out in a most pleasant voice, "Hello, there! I am thirsty for a good drink of water. Anybody at home?"

"I guess he's out at present," old Grumpy said finally. "but I know who lives here. It's that big fat rabbit. I'll take care of him later."

And the, as he walked away, he said, "Pretty soon I'll find out where they all live. My! There are certainly a lot of fine breakfasts and dinners and suppers in these woods! I'll probably stay all summer, anyway. It's too bad I missed that big fat rabbit and that coon. But tomorrow perhaps I shall get one or bother of them.

4

GRUMPY BEAR TAKES A BATH

After Doctor Rabbit and Ray Coon got away from him, Grumpy Bear decided to take a bath in the Murmuring Brook. He took off his shirt and trousers and dived into the water.

"Whoopee!" shouted Grumpy Bear. "This is certainly fine! I believe I'll build myself a small dam here and make my swimming hole deeper.

He went to work immediately and made himself a dam on one side of the Murmuring Brook, just where it flowed around a little island. When he had finished work, the water

above his dam was up to his neck, and he could swim. Then he jumped up and down in the water and splashed around, as happy as he could be. He was so happy he laughed and shouted all the time.

Pretty soon Grumpy Bear jumped out of the water onto the muddy bank and shouted, "I know what I'm going to do. I'm going to make myself a slippery slide!

And he began work right away. He stood at the edge of the brook and splashed water all up and down that part of the muddy bank. This made it very slippery, of course, and that was just what clever Grumpy wanted.

He went up to the top of the bank and sat down, and moved a little; then here he came, sliding right down the muddy bank and kersplash into the water. He went clear under, and when he came up he shouted for joy.

"Whoopee! he cried. "That's the finest slippery slide I ever made! I'm going to slide again!"

Grumpy Bear scrambled up the bank, and down he came again kersplash into the water.

Now, of course, while noisy Grumpy was splashing in the water and laughing and shouting, anyone who happened to be near could certainly hear him. And sure enough some one was near. It was Jack Rabbit. He was passing along in the Wide Prairie near the edge of the woods when he heard the strange noise in the water. He started right over toward the sound to see what was going on, and he had not gone far when he met Doctor Rabbit, who had also heard the shouting and was going in the same direction A little farther on they met Stubby Woodchuck, who had heard the noise too,

and was just hurrying to the brook. Then Ray Coon came runningup to say he had heard the loud shouting, and was very anxious to know who was making so much noise.

They all went forward together, and when they came near to the brook, they crept up to the bank very cautiously. They were certainly surprised. There was old Mr. Bear, tumblig about and splashing in the water and laughing and shouting, having more fun than anybody.

Doctor Rabbit and his friends crept silently behind a cottonwood tree and watched. Grumpy Bear would scramble up the bank, slide down his slippery slide kersplash into the water and then jump all around in the water and shout and laugh his loudest. You see he was not at all afraid of anybody who might hear him.

After a while, as Grumpy Bear was slide down his slippery slide into the water, Ray Coon sneaked over behind the bushes where Grumpy had hidden his clothes. Ray Coon seemed to be doing something with those clothes, but Doctor Rabbit and the others couldn't make out just what it was. So they all slipped over behind the thicket where Ray Coon was working. As soon as they saw what he was doing they began to chuckle and laugh almost out loud.

Even Ray Coon grinned as he worked. What do you suppose he was doing? Well, sir, he ws tying knots in Gurumpy Bear's shirt and in his trousers. And he was certainly tying hard knots. When he decided he had about enough knots in the clothes, he scampered away with Doctor Rabbit and the others to a near by thickjet to hide and see wht cross old Grumpy would do when he finally came out to put on his clothes.

5
GRUMPY BEAR MAKES A DISCOVERY

After Grumpy Bear had enjoyed himself for quite a while in the water he came running around behind the thickest to put on his clothes. He seized his shirt and started to run his arm into the sleeve, but his hand stuck. There was a knot there. The wind was growing a little cool, and Grumbuy Bear felt chilly. He seized his trousers and tried to put them on, but his foot stuck, of course, on accouont of the knots.

"What's the matter with my clothes?" roared Grumpy Grouch and he began to examine them.

"Well, I do declare," he growled. "Some one's been here tying knots in my clothes. That's exactly what's the matter with them. I wonder who it could have been," he continued as he tugged away at a knot in his shirt.

He spent a long time untying all the knots, because Ray Coon had certainly done a good job of tying them.

Doctor Rabbit and his friends were a little afraid to stay so near Grumpy Bear, and still it was so funny to see him tugging away at those knots and puffing that Doctor Rabbit and the others could scarcely keep from chuckling right out loud.

Presently, when Grumpy Bear had untied all the knots in his shirt and was

working on a particularly hard one in his trousers, he began to grunt as he tugged away. "Ugh!" Grumpy Bear grunted, and what do you suppose happened? Well, sir, before Ray Coon could get his hand to his mouth he laughed right out loud! I don't suppose Grumpy Bear would ever have known Doctor Rabbit and his friends were anywhere near if Ray Coon hadn't done that. If he had only been a little quicker about getting his hand to his mouth! But you know people all maie mistakes sometimes, o matter how hard they try, and that's how it was with Ray Coon.

You see, that laugh came out loud enough for Grumpy Bear to hear. Well, sir, Grumpy Bear just threw down his trousers and came charging as fast as he could for that thicket where Doctor Rabbit and his

"Some one's been here tying knots in my clothes."

friends were hiding. They sprang out and ran in every direction/. There was a big hollow tree a little way off. Ray Coon ran for that and slipped in, so he was safe. Doctor Rabbit and Jack Rabbit ran so fast they had no trouble in getting away, but things looks worse for short-legged Stubby Woodchuck. He seemed to be pretty much excited. There was no hole or stump near into which he could run. He started first for the tree Ray Coon had hidden in, but Grumpy Bear was so near that poor Stubb had to turn and run in another direction.

Doctor Rabbit looked back and saw how dangerous it was for Stubby, so he called to Jack Rabbit. Then Doctor Rabbit and Jack Rabbit turned and ran so close to Grumpy Bear that he forgot Stubby, and started after them.

"Ha! ha!" shouted the greedy fellow, "I guess I'll have rabbit for dinner!" So frightened Stubby escaped, and ran into the tree with Ray Coon.

6
JACK RABBIT PROVES INTERESTING

When Grumpy Bear started after Doctor Rabbit and Jack Rabbit, Jack Rabbit said, "Just let me take care of old Mr. Bear. I'll enjoy it!" So Doctor Rabbit darted to one side and hid in a dense, leafty thicket.

Jack Rabbit then started out in a big circle. He generally likes to run on a grest circle out in the Wide Prairie where he lives.

And Jack Rabbit, you must know, is very, very swift on his legs, and clearly loves to run. Especially does he like to run when some one like Grumpy Bear or a small dog or even a big dog gets after him - just so it isn't a greyhound. Jack Rabbit is terribly afraid of a grehound, even a small one, because any grehound that is not too young can catch Jack Rabbit. A greyhound is so swift he runs like lightening.

But Jack Rabbit can run away from almost anyone else, and now he was certainly having a good time. Jack Rabbit has a way of running on three legs when he is enjoying himself most, and that's the way he ran now while Grumpy Bear was chasing him.

Grumpy Bear, of course, thought Jack Rabbit was running his level best, and kept

shouting. "Hiyi! Hiyi! I'm certain of a fine dinner. I know it ! I know it!"

While Ray coon and Stubby Woodchuck were watching the race, Ray Coon became very much alarmed for Jack Rabbit. "Oh, my!" he exclaimed, his teeth chattering. "Just see there! Jack Rabbit's foot hurts so that he just barely keep out of old Grumpy's reach! sn't it dreadful!"

"Ha! ha! ha!" laughed Stubby Woodchuck. "Why Mr. Coon, how you do talk! If you look close you will see that it's Jack Rabbit's front foot that is hurt and has the bandage on, and it's one of hind feet he's holding up!"

"Whell, I do declare!" Ray Coon said, much relieved. "So it is! So it is!"

They waited and watched, and most of the time Jack Rabbit and Grumppy Bear were in plain sight.

After a time Jack Rabbit came running back toward the thicket where DRabbit was hiding. When Grumpy Bear and Jack Rabbit came close to the thicket, Doctor Rabbit bounded out and ran with Jack Rabbit. Then how hard old greedy Grumpy did try to run faster! Yes, sir! He lunged forward for all he was worth, because he thought, "Now I'll have two rabbits for dinner!"

As they ran along Doctor Rabbit said someting to Jack Rabit, and Jack Rabbit gave a spring to one side, and was gone. Then Grumpy Bear ran on after Doctor Rabbit.

As Doctor Rabbit ran past the tree where Ray Coon and Stubby Woodchuck were, they heard him say in a chuckling way, "I'll take him to the caving bank of the Murmuring Brook! That's eactly what I'll do!"

Now Doctor Rabbit's friends knew just what that meant; they had good reason to know, and they certainly were interested now! I should say they were! Just as soon as clever Doctor Rabbit and Grumpy Bear had passed, Stubby Woodchuck and Ray Coon came out of the big tree and hurried along after them toward the Murmuring Brook. Then here came Jack Rabbit and laughing and chuckling to themselves all three hurried forward. At last they came to an open place in the woods, from which they could see the banks of the Murmuring Brook. They could see Grumpy Bear running, and they could see Doctor Rabit, too.

Now what do you suppose Doctor Rabbit did? Well, sir, there was a place along Murmuring Brook where the bank was about ten feet high, very steep and pretty sandy.

If anyone very heavy got too near the edge there, the bank would cave in and fall with him into the water. Even Ray Coon and Stubby Woodchuck had had this experience.

Doctor Rabbit visited the Murmuring Brook every day, so he knew just what shape everything was in. At just the right spot he ran right out close to the edge of the bankj and sat still. "Ha! ha!" laughed Grumpy Bear. "You're tired out! You can't run another step! I knew I'd get you!" And Grumpy Bear made a big rush to seize Doctor Rabbit. Just as he was almost upon him, Doctor Rabbit sprang away, but old Grumpy, before he could stop, got too close to the edge, and down the bank he went with about two tons of dirt. Kersplash! Mr. Bear, dirt and all went clear under the water.

7
MR. O. POSSUM'S ACCIDENT

When Grumpy Bear fell down the bank, which caved in with him, Doctor Rabbit waited a momenbt. Grumpy Bear fell into a rather deep place, and sank clear under the cold water. When he came up he roared terribly. But Doctor Rabbit was very well satisfied that Mr. Bear would not have rabbit for dinner.

When old Grumpy Bear saw Doctor Rabbit sitting up on the bank, he was terribly angry, and came out of the water with a rush. But Doctor Rabbit shouted, "Hiyi! Good-bye, Mr. Bear," and ran away nto the woods.

Grumpy Bear, puffing from anger and excitement, hurried along the Murmuring Brook a little way to where there was a low bank. Here he scrambled up and looked quickly around for Doctor Rabbit, who was, of course, no where to be seen.

After a little while Doctor Rabbit, Jack Rabbit, Stubby woodchuck, and Ray Coon all met in the woods and talked the matter over. They thought it was pretty fine that Grumpy Bear had received such an uncomfortable surprise in falling into Murmuring Brook.

"Perhaps," said Doctor Rabbit, "if we can go righton making things uncomfortable for Mr. Bear, he will leave the Big Green Woods."

"I was just thinking about that, too," Ray Coon replied. "and certainly will do everything I can to make things uncomfortable for him. I wish we could think of something to do to make him leave right away."

On his way home Doctor Rabbit saw O. Possum tearing around in his yard as if he were crazy, and yelling his loudest. Doctor Rabbit went up pretty close and said, O. Possum, is there - is - is there anything the matter?"

"Yow! yow! Take him off!" shouted O. Possum, running toward Doctor Rabbit. "He's got hold of my tail, and he's biting terribly! Take him off, Doctor Rabbit! Take him off!"

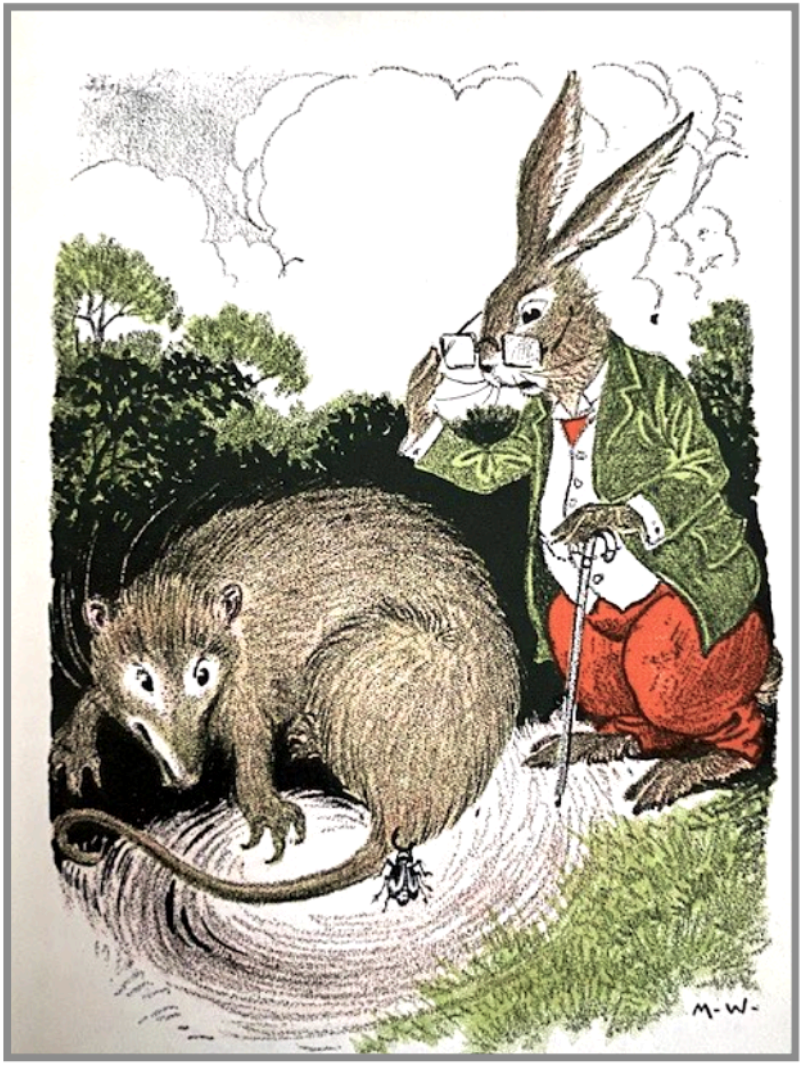
Doctor Rabbit's eyes opened wide. He could see most O. Possum's tail, but there didn't seemt o be anything the matter with it, so he drew back a little from O. Possum and said, "Why Brother Possum, your tail is all right. Maybe you just got to imagining something wrong with it."

"Why, what are you talking about?" shouted O. Possum. "Look, he's right at the root of my tail, and I just can't get at him. Take him off!"

Then Doctor Rabbit saw what it was. It was a large beetle that was biting O. Possum at the root of his tail, and try as he would, O. Possum counld not get the bettle off.

Doctor jerked it off in a hurry, and O. Possum immediately ate it.

"Well!" exclaimed Doctor Rabbit, very much relieved. He examined the place where the beetle had bitten O. Possum, and said I'll



It certainly did look as if O. Possum had lost his mind.

put a salve on the sore and it will be well in just a little while. How did he happen to get hold of you, Friend Possum?"

While Doctor Rabbit was putting salve on the sore place, O. Possum said, "Sakes alive! How he did bite! He was the hardest-biting beetle I ever felt! This is the way it was. I went out to get some bugs to eat, and when I had eaten all I wanted I leaned against a stump to rest a little and enjoy the beautiful morning. But I had not leaned there long until I felt the beetle biting me. I suppose I must have leaned right against him. I ran home as fast as I could and shouted for Mandy to take him off, but she had gone out for something, and here I was all alone."

Then O'Possum and Doctor Rabbit laughed, It seemed so funny they couldn't help it.

Presently Doctor Rabbit said, "I'd just like to know if any of our friends have seen Grumpy Bear this morning."

"That's so!" exclaimed O. Possum, his eyes very wide. "I was going to tell you - I saw him when I first went out after bugs, but I didn't look for any bugs around him! Indeed I didn't. I went into another part of the woods."

"Did he see you? asked Doctor Rabbit, very much excited.

"No," replied O. Possum. "He was eating some berries in a thicket. He was talking to himself, so I listened for just a minute to see what he was talking about. He said, 'Well, I'll slip out of here now and see if I can catch that big fat rabbit. Or maybe I'll run on to a possum, or a woodchuck, or something of that sort. Most any of them would taste mighty good. I notice a good many of these foolish animals around. I'll be able to get about all I want of them to eat, I'm sure. It's

lucky I happened on these woods. I'll just live here right along.' Then Grumpy Bear decided. "But I'll go home first.'

And away he went toward the west side of the woods."

8

WHERE GRUMPY BEAR LIVED

When O. Possum told Doctor Rabbit that Grumpy Bear had said he must go home, and had then started off toward the west side of the woods, Doctor Rabbit listened with every bit of his long ears. He was very, very much interested, because this is just what he had been wanting to know -- where Grumpy Bear lived. You see, it would be much easier to watch the old fellow if all the little creatures of the Big Green Woods knew just where he lived

Doctor Rabbit told O. Possum he was going to see what he could find out, and he set out immediately toward the west part of the woods, in the same direction that Grumpy Bear had gone. Doctor Rabbit looked pretty closely at the ground as he went along, and soon he saw what he was looking for - those big, crooked-toed tracks in the soft earth. Those tracks looked mighty big to Doctor Rabbit. Indeed they did! They looked so big that Doctor Rabbit did not even dare to walk in them-he just hopped beside them as he hurried along. The tracks led to a dogwood thicket. This was surely Grumpy Bear's home thought Doctor Rabbit. And so it was, for just then Grumpy Bear came out of the thicket, shook his great self, and lumbered slowly away toward Deep River.

Doctor Rabbit's heart beat loudly. He waited under some bushes until long after Grumpy Bear had gone out of sight. But this was just the chance he wanted, so he crept into the dogwood thicket to see what Grumpy's house was like. He found that right in the center of the thicket Grumpy had made himself a bed of leaves and moss. The leaves and moss had become dry, and Grumpy Bear had rested here so much that the bed looked very soft and comfortable indeed.

That is, the bed looked very comfortable for a bear, but it didn't look comfortable for Doctor Rabbit to lie in. I should say not! That would seem like getting too close to Grumpy Bear.

There was nothing in the thicket but that bed and the well-beaten path leading to it.

Doctor Rabbit said to himself, "Mr. Bear probably intends to make his home here until summer, and later on, before it gets cold, he will find a big hollow tree where he can sleep all winter."

Doctor Rabbit was glad to know where Grumpy Bear lived, for it would be easier to watch for him. But he didn't remain in the dogwood thicket long. Indeed he did not!

Yet Doctor Rabbit didn't hurry home either. He hid under the bushes not far from the thicket. The reason was that he was afraid to go home. You see, he might meet Grumpy Bear in the path.

And sure enough, in a little while Grumpy Bear came waddling down the path, on his way back from Deep River. He was talking joyfully to himself.

"That certainly is a big, fine rabbit. I'll get him before long. I've already got that big Jack Rabbit in the hollow tree by the river. Ho! ho! ho!" Grumpy Bear roared with laughter. "Putting a little corn in that hollow tree did just what I thought it would. That foolish Jack Rabbit went in, and I fixed the hole so he can't get out. Now if I can just manage to catch this big cottontail, I'll have a fine supper. Yes, I must get one more rabbit; then I'll have a fine supper. But I believe I'll go back soon and eat the big Jack Rabbit I locked in the hollow tree."

Grumpy Bear went on toward the dogwood thicket, walking in his queer shuffling way.

Doctor Rabbit's heart sank. "Jack Rabbit locked up ready for that villain's supper," he said slowly.

9

JACK RABBIT IN GREAT DANGER

Now, Doctor Rabbit was terribly troubled. Why? Because old Grumpy Bear had said he had Jack Rabbit shut up tight in a hollow tree near Deep River and was going to eat him for supper. At first Doctor Rabbit thought all he could do was just to watch Grumpy Bear and wait until he went to the hollow tree where Jack Rabbit was. Doctor Rabbit, you may be sure, would have run to the tree at once if he had known which tree it was. He was terribly afraid, of course, to wait until Grumpy Bear should go to the tree, for then it might be too late.

But just when Doctor Rabbit was feeling the worst he suddenly thought of something. "Aha, I know!" he said joyfully. "I know where Jack Rabbit is locked up. It must be in that big hollow oak tree near Deep River. I'll go there at once!"

So away ran Doctor Rabbit. He ran so fast you could hardly have seen him if you had been there. By and by he came to the big hollow oak tree near Deep River, and he was panting hard from his long run. Sure enough! Right over the opening of the tree was a big log, with another log right beside it. Doctor Rabbit ran close to the tree and called out. "Jack Rabbit, are you in there?"

"Oh, Doctor Rabbit! Yes! Yes! Yes!" shouted Jack Rabbit from inside the tree. You see he had recognized the voice of his good friend at once.

"Get me out! Get me out! Get me out! Jack Rabbit shouted. "Grumpy Bear says he's going to eat me for supper, and it will soon be supper time. Get me out! Do get me out! Please, oh please."

"Sh!" warned Doctor Rabbit. "Not so loud, Friend Jack Rabbit; you must let me think a little."

"If I ever get out of this," Jack Rabbit said, "I'll never be so careless again. I just crept in here to eat a few grains of corn, but it was a trap Grumpy Bear had set, and I had no sooner crept in than out of the bushes he came with a roar and threw a big log before the opening, and it sounded as if he threw another log beside it for good measure."

"Cheer up, my friend," said Doctor Rabbit. "I'll get you out of there shomehow. Have you tried to dig out?"

"Yes! yes!" replied Jack Rabbit. "I have about dug my claws off trying to dig out, but I can't do it."

Doctor Rabbit said softly to himself, "Well, no one but Grumpy Bear with his great strength can ever move those logs, so I must plan a different way to free my friend Jack Rabbit."

"How far have you dug?" asked Doctor Rabbit.

" I have dug clear under the first big log." Jack Rabbit replied, "but I am so tired I don't feel that I can dig a bit ore. I'll try, though." And he began digging again.

Doctor Rabbit thought quickly. He knew well enough that Grumpy Bear would probably return before both of them could dig a hole out of that tree. "No," said Doctor Rabbit to himself, "If I get my friend Jack

Rabbit out of there I must do it some other way."

"What shall I do? tell me quickly, what shall I do? cried Jack Rabbit.

"I remember this tree now," Doctor Rabbit said, "and you do just as I tell you. Stand on your hind legs and feel with your front paws around the tree until you find an opening. You will find that you can crawl up pretty easily until you come to where the opening is smaller and goes straight up. But when you come to the small hole that goes straight up, just put your back against one side and claw up on the other side. Just keep going and when you come to a long hollow limb up there where you can see daylight, I will tell you what to do."

So Jack Rabbit stood on his hind legs at the bottom of the tree and felt around with his front paws until he found the opening at one side. He climbed up into this as he was

told and started crawling up the tree. You see, Jack Rabbit very seldom gets in a hole and he had been so frightened he had not thought of a single thing but just to dig, dig, dig. But now how he did work and push and claw to get up that tree! It was very dark in the hollow of the tree, but Jack Rabbit didn't mind very much because he was getting higher and higher all the time. Of course he did not know just yet how he was going to escape from the tree - he was already pretty high up, he knew - but he trusted his good friend Doctor Rabbit for that. So Jack Rabbit kept pulling and clawing and climbing up to the hollow limb of the tree.

"Jack Rabbit, are you up to the hollow limb?" Doct Rabbti called out.

"Yes," replied Jack Rabbit. "Is it perfectly safe for me to crawl to the end of it?"

"Of course it is," Doctor Rabbit told his friend. "Just creep right along until you can poke your head out and see me down here on the ground."

So Jack Rabbit did. He crept along the hollow limb until he came to the end, where he looked down and saw Doctor Rabbit standing beside a big high tangle of vines and briars. My but it did seem a long way to the ground from where Jack Rabbit was!

Doctor Rabbit was glancing all around as if he were looking for Grumpy Bear, and at first Jack Rabbit just looked down and did not say anything. He sat and looked down from that high limb and wondered how in the world he could ever escape.

Jack Rabbit was so much afraid that Doctor Rabbit would ask him to jump right down to the hard ground that he did not say anything for a minute longer.

"I wonder if he wants me to slide down on a vine?" Jack Rabbit thought to himself, and he stretched his neck out of the limb to see if there was a vine hanging from the tree to the ground. But there was no vine up there at all. No, the tree was perfectly bare.

Just then Doctor Rabbit happened to look up, and he saw his friend.

"Well, how are you, Friend Jack" he shouted. "You are farther from the ground than you have ever been in you life before, aren't you?"

"Yes, indeed," said Jack Rabbit a little nervously, "and how shall I ever get down? I hate to think of going back through that dark hollow of the tree."

10
GRUMPY BEAR IS ASTONISHED

When Grumpy Bear came running up to the tree where he thought he was going to gobble up Jack Rabbit, Doctor Rabbit gave one look at Jack Rabbit and motioned for him to keep perfectly still.

Grumpy Bear sat down on the logs he had placed over the opening in the tree and said, "Well, that fat cottontail was pretty clever, and he got away, but I don't care much. I'll move these logs in a minute and eat my big fat Jack Rabbit! I'm pretty lucky to have even one fat rabbit to eat. Yes indeed, I'm lucky."

Then old Grumpy called out loudly and bagan to talk to Jack Rabbit, because he thought, of course, Jack Rabbit was just inside, expecting to be gobbled up. "Well, I'm back, Jack Rabbit, and I'm going to eat you right now. In about two minutes I'll pull these logs away and eat one of the finest meals I have ever had in my life!"

When he had said this Grumpy Bear jumped up and began dancing around the tree on his hind legs and this is what he sang with his big voice:

"Ho! ho! ho! and a yo heave ho!
Fat Jack Rabbit waits for me;
I'll sing and dance just three times round
Then I'll feast in this hollow tree!"

Well sir, when old Grumpy Bear had danced just three times around the tree, he jerked away the logs and thrust his terrible claws right into the tree where he thought Jack Rabbit was. My, but he was angry when he saw Jack Rabbit had gone! He was so surprised too, that he could scarcely believe it.

"Somebody has helped him get away!" roared Grumpy Bear. "He never could have gotten away alone. Somebody must have helped him."

Now you remember that Jack Rabbit wondered how he was going to get down from that limb. Well, Doctor Rabbit sprang out now and shouted, "Jump, Friend Jack Rabbit! Jump away, out and on top of all those vines over the briar patch!"

Then Jack Rabbit saw what Doctor Rabbit had planned all the time.

He was surprised at seeing Jack Rabbit jump from the tree

"Jump as I did once, from the limb right on top of those vines!" Doctor Rabbit shouted.

So Jack Rabbit jumped. He sprang from the hole in the limb and went sailing down through the air like a bird, and plunk, he fell on top of those vines. He fell right through them, too, just as Doctor Rabbit had once done, and landed on the ground right in the center of the vines and briars as safe as anything! Yes sir! The vines had given way beneath Jack Rabbit's weight and he was not hurt the least bit.

Old Grumpy Bear just stood with his mouth open, he was so surprised at seeing Jack Rabbit jump from the tree, go sailing through the air, and then plunge through that big thicket of vines. And while he stood there astonished, with his mouth open, Doctor

Rabbit and Jack Rabbit ran out of the tangle of vines.

And Doctor Rabbit shouted. "Ha! ha! ha! You didn't know Jack Rabbit could fly from a tree, did you, Mr. Bear? You can eat bark for your supper! Ha! ha! ha!". And away Doctor Rabbit and Jack Rabbit ran into the deep woods.

THE END

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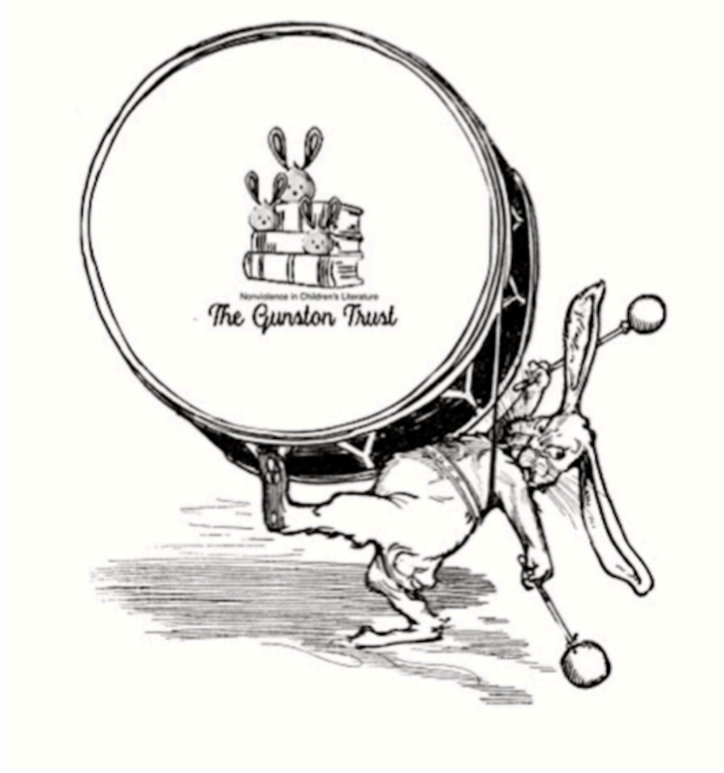
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